

KS3 Computing Assessment Grid

We assess pupils using detailed termly rubrics aligned to each unit of work. These outcomes are then mapped onto a KS3 assessment grid, which provides a consistent framework for tracking progression across Years 7–9 in line with the DfE Programme of Study.

■ Year 7 – Foundations

Strand	Emerging	Developing	Secure	Working Beyond
Knowledge & Vocabulary	Recalls simple facts with support	Uses some correct terms in context	Explains concepts clearly using subject vocabulary	Makes links between concepts and real-world examples
Planning & Design	Minimal planning	Basic plan or outline	Clear plan that supports the task	Detailed, thoughtful planning beyond task requirements
Digital Skills & Tools	Uses tools with step-by-step guidance	Uses tools mostly correctly	Uses tools confidently and independently	Uses tools creatively or explores advanced features
Programming & Logic	Uses simple sequences with help	Applies basic sequencing / selection	Correctly uses sequencing, selection and simple iteration	Extends programs independently or adds extra features
Data & Representation	Recognises basic data or symbols	Uses data with guidance	Accurately represents and interprets data	Explains limitations and compares methods

Media & Design	Basic or incomplete outcomes	Meets some design criteria	Meets all success criteria clearly	Produces polished, creative work
Evaluation	Simple comments	Identifies strengths or improvements	Explains improvements clearly	Gives thoughtful, justified reflection

Year 8 – Development & Application

Strand	Emerging	Developing	Secure	Working Beyond
Knowledge & Understanding	Describes ideas with gaps	Explains ideas with examples	Explains concepts accurately and confidently	Links concepts across topics and contexts
Planning & Decomposition	Limited task breakdown	Basic steps identified	Logical decomposition supports success	Detailed, efficient decomposition supports others
Programming (Text & Visual)	Writes simple programs with errors	Uses variables, selection, iteration with support	Writes reliable programs using multiple constructs	Combines constructs fluently and extends functionality
Web, Apps & Systems	Builds basic pages or apps	Applies key features with guidance	Produces functional, structured solutions	Produces polished, user-focused solutions
Data & Representation	Uses representations with support	Converts and uses data accurately	Explains binary, units, and structures	Evaluates limitations and trade-offs

Design & Creativity	Basic outcomes	Meets design brief	Purposeful, refined outcomes	Innovative, well-justified designs
Evaluation	Simple review	Identifies improvements	Evaluates effectiveness clearly	Justifies decisions against criteria and users

Year 9 – Independence & Depth

Strand	Emerging	Developing	Secure	Working Beyond
Conceptual Understanding	Describes ideas simply	Explains ideas with examples	Explains systems, data, and processes clearly	Analyses impact, ethics, and real-world implications
Programming & Problem Solving	Code partially works	Uses selection, iteration, lists with support	Builds complete, functional programs	Optimises, refines, and explains solutions
Physical Computing / CAD / Media	Basic use of tools	Functional outcomes with guidance	Confident, independent creation	Creative, refined, industry-style outcomes
Systems, Networks & Safety	Identifies risks or components	Explains concepts clearly	Applies knowledge to scenarios	Evaluates trade-offs, risks, and responsibilities

Direct mapping: Topic rubrics to KS3 grid

KS3 Grid Strand	Fed by Termly Rubrics such as...
Knowledge & Vocabulary	Networks, Systems, Online Safety, Representations
Planning & Design / Decomposition	App design, CAD, Physical Computing, Media
Programming & Logic	Scratch (Y7), Python (Y8–9), Physical Computing
Data & Representation	Binary, units, lists, spreadsheets
Digital Skills & Tools	Web, Apps, CAD, Media, Animation
Systems, Networks & Safety	Networks, Cloud, Online Safety, World of Work
Evaluation & Reflection	Built into every Raspberry Pi rubric

Termly rubrics = granular unit assessment during topic stages within the SOL year
KS3 assessment grid = overarching judgement framework based on Years Progress